(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the deadline by which the channel would go on air?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati, a statutory autonomous corporation has informed that they have decided to launch an Urdu Channel in January 2006.

National Judicial Council

55. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: DR.
MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to constitute a National Judicial Council;

(b) if so, the details thereof including its objectives and purposes;

(c) whether consultation with the Hon'ble Supreme Court, Law Commission and the Bar Council of India etc. has been held;

(d) if so, their reaction thereto; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The details for setting up of the National Judicial Council, in consultation with all the state holders, are being worked out.

Bogus voters

56. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: SHRI
MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports in print media that out of 67 crore voters, 2.5 crore voters are bogus;

Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to eliminate such huge number of bogus voters to ensure credibility of an electoral system?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Pension structure forjudges

t57. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the retired judges of the Supreme Court get insufficient amount of pension that makes it difficult for them to have a decent livelihood;

(b) if so, whether Government would take steps to do away with the anomalies prevailing in the pension structure of the judges;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (d) The service conditions of the Supreme Court Judges including pension and other pensionary benefits payable to them are regulated under the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958.

Consequent upon revision of pensionary benefits to officers of All India Service, on account of merger of 50% of Deamess Allowance/Deamess Relief with basic pay/basic pension respectively, with effect from 1.4.2004, it became necessary to give parity in pension and family pension to the judges of Supreme Court and High Courts from the same date. Accordingly, the rate of pension and family pension of all categories of Judges of High Courts and Supreme Court are being increased by 1.5 times with effect from 1.4.2004. It has also been proposed to add a period of 10 years qualifying service to the service of a Supreme Court Part I Judge for the purposes of pension who is directly appointed from the Bar to the Bench

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.